

National Resource Centers and
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

INNER ASIA

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Abstracts
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Indiana University
Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center

Already in 1956, Indiana University established a Program in Uralic and Altaic Studies, the forerunner of today's Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center (IAUNRC). For over 40 years, IU has gathered leading specialists, impressive library collections, and other top-quality resources to create the nation's premier program devoted to this region. It has effectively utilized these resources to provide quality training and outreach programs that continue to serve the entire country.

IU's greatest concentration of expertise and instruction is located within the Departments of Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS) and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC). Center faculty are specialists on civilizations stretching from the Baltics, Hungary, and Turkey to Central Asia, Tibet, and Mongolia. They pursue both historical and contemporary analysis in a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, business, comparative literature, economics, folklore, history, journalism, linguistics, music and drama, political science, public administration, and religious studies. During each academic year, IAUNRC offers multiple levels of instruction in all of the following living languages indigenous to the Center's area: Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Mongolian, Persian/Tajik, Tibetan, Turkish, and Uzbek. Other living and classical languages of Central Eurasia are offered less frequently, including Azeri, Chaghatay, Evenki, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Mordvin, Turkmen, and Uyghur.

IAUNRC offers a strong interdisciplinary training program for students. Undergraduates can earn a certificate or individualized major in CEUS, with the same options plus a BA in NELC. The Center also trains future specialists through its MA and PhD degree programs, which have placed graduates in prestigious positions in education, business and industry, and government—both in the US and abroad. In addition, IAUNRC provides an area studies dimension to the training of students in professional schools. A combined MA in CEUS and Public Administration/ Environmental Studies is also available, as well as an IAUNRC graduate certificate.

Indiana University houses outstanding print and electronic resources for Inner Asian and Uralic studies. The main library holds 100,000 volumes on Central Eurasia, including the largest Tibetan and Estonian collections of any American university. IU's other specialized collections contain another 35,000 items relevant to the Center's area. The Center continues to build its collections, while also making them more accessible to patrons across the country.

IAUNRC's active and growing outreach program serves several vital constituencies. The Center is creating new curriculum materials for teaching about Central Eurasia at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. The dissemination of many of these will be facilitated by using recent advances in information technology. Center faculty have an outstanding record of service to government, business, and philanthropic organizations, as well as to other post-secondary institutions, thus making a major contribution to Americans' knowledge about the increasingly important world area on which we focus.